

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION C-SS-4/DEC.3  
ON ADDRESSING THE THREAT FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE**

1. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”), at its Fourth Special Session, adopted a decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018). In paragraph 24 of the decision, the Conference decided that “the Director-General shall provide a copy of this decision and a report on its initial implementation to all States Parties and to the United Nations Secretary-General within 30 days of this decision and thereafter provide a report on progress to each regular session of the Council”, in reference to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”).
2. Following current practice, and consistent with paragraph 8 of the decision, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) continues to update States Parties on, inter alia, the operations of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (FFM) through its monthly progress reports entitled “Progress in the Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme”, and through reports detailing the FFM’s activities and findings regarding specific incidents of alleged use of chemicals as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, the Secretariat will provide briefings on the activities and findings of the FFM to States Parties, as appropriate.
3. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat is working to put in place the arrangements necessary to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic by identifying and reporting on all information potentially relevant to the origin of those chemical weapons in those instances in which the FFM determines or has determined that use or likely use occurred, and cases for which the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism has not issued a report.
4. At the end of August, the Secretariat issued a revised draft of the OPCW Programme and Budget for 2019 (EC-89/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 31 August 2018), taking into account the resource requirements for implementing paragraph 10 of C-SS-4/DEC.3. The revision details the human, financial, technological, and other operational resources assessed by the Secretariat as being required to implement this aspect of the decision in 2019. The required resources were determined by the Secretariat as the result of an internal needs assessment process conducted in July and August, which included consultations with other relevant organisations and experts.
5. The funds requested for 2019 would be used to establish and support the work of a team tasked with implementing the activities set out in paragraph 10 of



C-SS-4/DEC.3, with significant support for these activities to come from other relevant Offices and Divisions of the Secretariat. The team would report directly to the Director-General. While the team's mission is envisaged to be temporary, the duration of its activities will be subject to the time needed to conduct its investigations and to any new cases that would be subject to review under paragraph 10 of C-SS-4/DEC.3.

6. As decided in paragraph 12 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat is working to put in place appropriate measures to preserve and provide information to the body established by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 71/248 (2016), as well as to any relevant investigatory entities established under the auspices of the United Nations. The Secretariat has signed a memorandum of understanding with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM) regarding the sharing of information with this body. Additionally, EC-89/CRP.1/Rev.1 includes provisions for a new and specialised information technology infrastructure to ensure the Secretariat's ability to preserve and provide information to the IIIM.
7. In accordance with paragraph 18 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat is developing options for further assistance to States Parties to help prevent the chemical weapons threat posed by non-State actors, and to aid States Parties' contingency planning in the event of a chemical weapons attack. The Secretariat is reviewing and will build on existing activities in this regard, including with respect to preparedness, prevention, and response, taking into consideration, inter alia, the decision of the Council entitled "Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors" (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017). The Director-General will present these options to the Conference at its next regular session in November.
8. Pursuant to paragraph 20 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Director-General, if requested by a State Party investigating possible chemical weapons use on its territory, can provide technical expertise to identify those who are perpetrators, organisers, sponsors, or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons.
9. To begin developing this capability, the team of investigators and analysts that would be in charge of implementing paragraph 10 of C-SS-4/DEC.3 would be expected to maintain in the Organisation the knowledge and competencies so that the skills and expertise remain in the Secretariat. The proposed revised budget in EC-89/CRP.1/Rev.1 requests funds for training that would enhance the Secretariat's skills and expertise. In the longer term, the Secretariat will seek the skills and expertise needed to respond to requests for assistance for attribution as part of its routine recruitments and from its outside experts to ensure that this capability is fully embedded within the existing structures of the Secretariat. The specific proposals will be submitted to the Conference.
10. In paragraph 20 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Conference also invited the Director-General to submit to the Conference at its next regular session specific proposals for the establishment of independent, impartial, expert arrangements with outside experts that could potentially support the Secretariat's response to a request for assistance from a State Party investigating the possible use of chemical weapons on its territory. The

Secretariat is currently developing such proposals and will present them to Conference at its next regular session.

11. Pursuant to paragraph 21 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat is reviewing its activities and preparing proposals to build on these activities to strengthen implementation of the verification regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), to provide further assistance to States Parties to enable them to implement their obligations under the Convention, to enhance chemical security, to enable international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, and to further strengthen the capabilities of the Secretariat. Pursuant further to paragraph 21 of the same decision, the Secretariat will submit these proposals to the Conference at its next regular session.
12. In accordance with paragraph 22 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat will subsequently produce a report on the options and proposals set out in paragraph 21, to be submitted to the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
13. In accordance with paragraph 23 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat will continue to prioritise the realisation of the universality of the Convention, on the understanding that this goal is essential to achieving its object and purpose, to enhancing the security of States Parties, and to international peace and security. The Director-General continues to call upon all States Parties to support the Secretariat’s efforts in this regard.
14. In accordance with paragraph 24 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Director-General shall provide a report on progress in the implementation of the decision to the Council at each regular session.

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